

Beautiful Gift Editions for the Christmas Tree

THE SCARLET LETTER

THE SCARLET LETTER. By Nathaniel Hawthorne. Illustrated by Hugh Thompson. Published by George H. Doran & Co. Price, \$1.00.

THE coincidence always had a strong appeal to Nathaniel Hawthorne, first and greatest of American mystics. Who can say what analogy he might have fancied between the present ambitious reprint of his greatest novel and the recrudescence of the early New England blue laws?

The intolerance and bigotry which framed those laws pinned the scarlet A upon the breast of Hester Prynne, and Hawthorne, without condemning the harshness and injustice of that terrible stigma, can yet sympathize with the mistaken zeal of an earnest people groping toward God. An earnest people groping toward God. A earnest people groping toward God. A earnest people groping toward God.

There is a peculiar pleasure in rereading The Scarlet Letter after many years. Met for the first time, probably in one's school days when one was introduced to it as a part of one's necessary reading, the charm of the first meeting was marred to an appreciable degree by the knowledge that one was performing a required task. But through the years there have come certain vivid pictures and impressions. There was the grim-faced crowd about the door of the prison, that "black flower of civilized society"; one always remembered little Pearl dancing like a mite in the sunlit patches of the

forest, patches that always strangely moved away when Hester stepped within their radiance, and that last tremendous scene upon the scaffold when Dimmesdale confesses his sin. It has required many years of mixed reading to make one cognizant of the truth of the judgment which places The Scarlet Letter among the greatest of the world's novels.

The latest reprint is a beautiful piece of work, with no less than thirty-one attractive illustrations in colors from the capable brush of Hugh Thompson. Included within the volume are that first introduction concerning the custom house which offended certain officials to the point of demanding an apology and retraction and Hawthorne's second and brief introduction, in which he says the first "could not have been done in a better or a kinder spirit" and that he is therefore constrained "to republish his introductory sketch without the change of a word."

WESTWARD HO!

WESTWARD HO! By Charles Kingsley. Illustrated by N. C. Wyeth. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons.

NEW books of adventure have not crowded some of the old standbys out of the publishers' minds. Westward Ho! by Charles Kingsley, represents the luxurious gift edition for boys. This story of the voyages and adventures of Sir Amyas Leigh, Knight of Burrough in the County of Devon, carries the reader back to the glamour and charm of the days of Good Queen Bess. Color illustrations for this edition have been done by N. C. Wyeth.

ROBERT BURNS FOR CHILDREN

THE POEMS OF ROBERT BURNS, edited by James Hughes, of Toronto, Canada, and published by George H. Doran & Co.

THE editor says in his introduction: "This book is published with the view of securing a wider reading and study of the universal poems of Burns, especially by young people." The poems are arranged in four classes: First, "Poems of Nature"; second, "Religious and Ethical Poems"; third, "Poems of Democracy and Brotherhood"; and fourth, "Love Songs." Photographs made by Mr. Hughes of the country where Burns lived and wrote are used

as illustrations in the volume. There are also a number of portraits. "Tam o' Shanter" is the first poem in the book. Besides being a great poem, it typifies something of the neighborhood in which Burns was born, and its many charming rivers, "Sweet Afton," "Farewell to the Banks of Ayr" and "The Banks of Doon" also portray the poet's feeling for his wonderful natural environment.

At the opening of each division of the book Mr. Hughes has written an explanatory introduction of the poems and the phase of the poet in that section of his work. Through these he adds to the educational value of the volume and interprets the man as well as his work.

BALLADS FROM THE MASTERS

STORY TELLING. BALLADS. Selected by Francis Jenkins Gould. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

SEVENTY-SEVEN story-telling ballads have been selected by Francis Jenkins Gould and arranged for story telling and reading aloud for boys' and girls' own reading. These rollicking, rolling, sometimes jingling, sometimes thrilling, selections are from the best writers of this kind of literature. Sir Walter Scott, Tennyson, Lowell, Longfellow, Kingsley and other songsters are represented in the ballads.

The ballad is a form of story telling which appeals particularly to children. It does, in fact, represent a childhood phase of the literature of any language. The men who made the beginnings of our literature with their stories told by word of mouth in village and before kings courts were ballad-makers. The old stories were first told in rhyme. So it is only natural that the lift of the rhyming and the romance of the stories themselves should appeal to children of all times.

Years ago a little girl used to visit at the home of her aunt who was a very proper person and whose home was fraught with niceties of the mid-Victorian way of life. Most prized was a cushion covered volume whose place was a center table in the parlor. Of all the books the little girl had ever seen, the contents of this upholstered volume caught and held her affection most. The aunt, for all her niceness, was very fond of the little girl and did not forbid that she should read the volume over and over again. Whenever a visit to the aunt was planned foremost in the mind of the child was the volume on the center table, and over and over again, each day of her visit, would she read of the romance of "Lady Clare," best loved of all the fiction heroines the little girl knew.

FAIRY PLAYS

THE BOOK OF FAIRY POETRY. Edited by Dora Owen. Illustrated by Margaret W. Lathrop. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

THE BOOK OF FAIRY POETRY, edited by Dora Owen and elaborately illustrated by Margaret W. Lathrop, is an anthology which gives children and others the work of some of the greatest poets. It is divided into three parts: First, Fairy Stories; second, Fairy Songs, Dances and Talks; and third, Fairyland and Fairy Lore. The fairy scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" are arranged so that children could take them out and make a little fairy play of them. Christina Rossetti's "Goblin Market," Keats's "La Belle Dame sans Merci," Matthew Arnold's "The Forsaken Merman," Tennyson's "The Coming of Arthur" and Ben Jonson's "Queen Mab" are among the poems in the volume and represent the kind of poetry offered.

A JUVENILE WORLD HISTORY. ANOTHER MAN. By Hendrik Willem Van Loon. Published by Dutton & Co.

FOR persons too young, or too sophisticated, to read H. G. Wells's The Outline of History, Ancient Man by Hendrik Willem Van Loon, is to be recommended. Van Loon is almost as am-



bitious as Mr. Wells. In fact, he is more so to our mind because he purposes to begin at the beginning of things and explain them to children. And children, unlike grown-ups, do not pause to marvel that he should know so much, are not shifted over data by style or cleverness. They demand facts. They are the most critical class of readers in the world. Dr. Van Loon does not fail in his comprehensive job. In short sentences he carries his young readers through many facts about prehistoric man. He has enough imagination to keep from boring them and at the same time he gives just about as much truth as man knows about his prehistoric ancestors. He leaves the cave man period and comes down through the early civilizations. He winds up with "The End of the Ancient World" and promises another volume which will take up the stories of the Greeks and Romans. Color illustrations in the book are by Mr. Van Loon.

BRITISH BALLADS

SOME BRITISH BALLADS. Illustrated by Arthur Rackham. Published by Dutton & Co.

SOME BRITISH BALLADS is another beautifully gotten out volume of poetry. It is illustrated by Arthur Rackham. The poems are old, almost primitive. Explanations are made of obsolete words as they are used. The swing and jingle of the ballads carry them along even though the meaning is not clear and these old stories in rhyme have an especial appeal to children and to certain grown people.

A LITTLE BOY LOST

A LITTLE BOY LOST. By R. H. Hudson. Illustrated by Dorothy F. Lathrop. Published by Alfred A. Knopf.

A DEEPLY imaginative story is that of A Little Boy Lost, by W. H. Hudson, which will interest dreamy children and grown-ups. It is attuned to just the proper pitch for persons who love and feel nature. Perhaps it will not move rapidly enough for very active children, but the smoothness of language may even make them pause if some one will read it to them. Large illustrations in color by Dorothy F. Lathrop are in tune with the story.

TUNEFUL VERSES

CUTTLE CAT KITTENS. By Margaret Gould. Published by George W. Lunt & Co.

CUTTLE CAT KITTENS, by Margaret Gould, is full of little verses as tuneful as the name of the

book. Three fluffy white kittens have been put into a book. The author has not only written rhymes about them, but has made nice pictures for little people to study of them accompanying the verses. This is a book for very little people, which brothers and sisters a little bit bigger will enjoy reading to them and perhaps to themselves when no grown-up is looking.

SONGS FOR CHILDREN

LITTLE HOMESPUN SONGS. By Beatrice Hubbell-Plummer. Illustrated by Mary La Fetra Russell. Published by the Frederick A. Stokes Company.

LITTLE HOMESPUN SONGS, by Beatrice Hubbell-Plummer, has songs and verses for children. The subjects of the songs are just homey things which are common to the lives of most small persons. The songs, which have music written by the author, are easy for little hands just learning to stretch themselves over a piano keyboard and for little voices to carry. Illustrations for the book are by Mary La Fetra Russell. Publishers, the Frederick A. Stokes Company.

MOTHER GOOSE

MOTHER GOOSE NURSERY RHYMES. Illustrated by Charles Folkard. Published by Macmillan.

FOR very little people Mother Goose's Nursery Rhymes, edited by L. Edna Walter and illustrated by Charles Folkard, is one of the most fetching books we have ever seen. It is published by A. & C. Black, of London, and Macmillan Company in New York.

In a preface for grown-ups a little history of the rhymes is given. Most of us have met the characters in the jingles before, and the illustrations to this collection will make them all more vivid. Tom the Piper's Son, The Knave of Hearts, Simple Simon and Old King Cole are all there in gay clothes. Surely Santa Claus should be told about this volume of Mother Goose.

A BURGESS BOOK

THE BURGESS ANIMAL BOOK. By Thornton W. Burgess. Published by Dutton & Co.

IN THE BURGESS ANIMAL BOOK, FOR CHILDREN, by Thornton Burgess, Peter Rabbit's insatiable curiosity is used for the benefit of the small readers who follow his adventures. These lessons in natural history for very little people contain much valuable information for big people who like to know about the inhabitants of forest and field. Mother Nature's

school is attended by Peter and other folk from the Green Meadows. Many of the animals described are relatives of those taking the lessons. The book is illustrated by colored pictures of animals by Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

TO MAKE CHILDREN SING

SONG DEVICES AND JINGLES. By Eleanor Smith. Published by Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.

THE real purpose of this book is to teach young children to sing," says Eleanor Smith in the preface to Song Devices and Jingles. The volume of songs is illustrated in color by Florence Lilley Young. Dialogue songs and rhythmic games are included in the book. They are interesting to little people as well as instructive. The songs could be used by mothers, teachers and even big sisters in helping little people to learn music.

WHAT CHILDREN DREAM ABOUT

DREAMLAND SHORES. By Norman Ault. Published by Dood, Mead & Co.

DREAMLAND SHORES is a book of verse for children, written and pictured by Norman Ault. The little poems are pleasing and some of them very catchy. They are about the things of which children dream and wonder about. The illustrations are also pleasing and attractive. Dood, Mead & Co. are the publishers.

A JUMBLE OF GOOD THINGS

THE JUMBLE BOOK. By David Cory. Published by George Sully & Co.

THE JUMBLE BOOK, by David Cory (George Sully & Co. publishers), reminds the grown-up of the old Chatterbox. It is called a Jumble Book because it contains a jumble of good things. To begin with, it has nice illustrations, in color and black and white. There are stories, little fables and poems. The variety of the "jumble" will keep little readers busy for many days finding new things to look at and read.

IRISH FAIRY TALES

IRISH FAIRY TALES. By James Stephens. Illustrated by Arthur Rackham. Published by the Macmillan Company.

IT is to be expected that Ireland, the home of the fairies, should yield its fair share of the tales of the little people. And in the last few years certain modern story-tellers have delved into the legends of Ireland to such an extent that we have been getting many additions to our stock of folklore. Irish Fairy Tales, by James Stephens, is a good collection of these stories from the disturbing island of England's west coast. The tales have a different tone from those of the Continent. In spots they bear resemblance to the Arthur legends, but this is principally in detail. Homely sayings, or

morals, are interspersed along the course of the stories, after the manner of German fairy stories, but with more delicacy. The dramatic, almost tragic, element is strong in some of the tales. In fact, they are more emotional than the usual children's fairy stories. This volume is illustrated by Arthur Rackham.

STORIES BY PADRAIC COLUM

THE BOY APPRENTICED TO AN ENCHANTER. By Padraic Colum. Illustrated by Dugald Stewart Walker. Published by the Macmillan Company.

ANOTHER series of stories for children has come from the imagination of Padraic Colum. These are published under the title The Boy Apprenticed to an Enchanter. In his writing for children Mr. Colum's style is well-nigh perfect. He uses simple words and constructions with clearness and beauty. Without obvious effort he attains a glamorous atmosphere whenever it is required, and in the same story he can bring his little readers down to earth in such smoothness that they do not feel any jar. The Boy Apprenticed to an Enchanter is illustrated in black and white by Dugald Stewart Walker.

THE DEATHLESS GRIMMS

HANSEL AND GRETEL AND OTHER TALES. Illustrated by Arthur Rackham. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co.

GRIMM'S collection of fairy tales have not been forgotten in these days of so many and such varied books for children. The two volumes of stories have been published by E. P. Dutton & Co., made up of these fairy tales which should be part of the background of every child. Hansel and Gretel and Other Tales by the Brothers Grimm and Snowdrop and Other Tales by the Brothers Grimm are enticingly illustrated by Arthur Rackham. The stories are the same simple folk tales which were dug out of some confusion by the two simple, scholarly brothers. For all their work in ethnology, their deep study and the years spent as teachers, those two men are remembered because of the fairy tales they gathered. They left something which bears audience with the children of every nation. Their stories lose nothing by translation. They are the stories of the world carried from one part to another by wandering story tellers, changed and retold at peasant hearthside until they become something belonging to that peculiar community or family. When the Grimm Brothers collected the folk-lore and wrote these stories in a manner that the children of all time could love and understand them, they were simply giving the tales back to those they came from, the children of the entire world.

THE STORY OF JESUS

THE STORY OF JESUS. By Ethel Nathalia Dana. Illustrated with reproductions of early paintings. Published by Marshall Jones Company, of Boston. \$1.50 to \$10.00.

THE value of pictures for making things emphatic has always been realized. The Story of Jesus, pictures of paintings from Italian primitives, with descriptive text from the New Testament, selected and arranged by Ethel Nathalia Dana, contains the following introduction, which very well explains its place in the world of books and art: "In medieval times the Church rose high above all other buildings, overshadowing the town like a great bird protecting her young. For the Church was the home of every interest, taking care of practical as well as spiritual needs. . . .

"Jesus, Mary and the Saints were intimate friends and helpers, and every one wanted to know the story of their lives. But in those days printing had not been invented, books were rare and few could read. The best way, therefore, of telling these stories was to make a series of large pictures, which could be seen at the same time by many. So the walls of the church were like picture books. Bright colors were used, and the figures so arranged that the stories could be easily understood. So much interest was given to these pictures that the greatest artists were engaged to paint them, and even today they tell the story of Jesus better than modern paintings."

The artists whose paintings are reproduced in color are Giotto, Fra Angelico, Duccio, Ghirlandajo, Barna da Siena and Gentile da Fabriano. The reproductions are very fine. The arrangement is such as to demonstrate the early purpose of these paintings, which have a freshness of interpretation and a naive feeling which later works lack. The book will make an addition to the library of an art lover and to that of the religious.

OLD FRENCH FAIRY TALES

OLD FRENCH FAIRY TALES. By Comtesse de Segur. Published by the Penn Publishing Company.

OLD FRENCH FAIRY TALES, by Comtesse de Segur, is a handsome book of interesting stories for children, published by the Penn Publishing Company. The stories are longer than most fairy tales, or rather the collection is composed of four series of incidents about certain characters. Color illustrations by Virginia Frances Stewart are artistic and add greatly to the stories.

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